

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Switzerland/Rumania

SUBJECT Repercussions of Beria's Purge

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1. Swiss Communist circles are watching with interest the repercussions of Beria's downfall within the Communist Parties of East and West Europe. They consider the reappearance of Ana Pauker a significant symptom. An Italian journalist was able to get an interview with her in Bucharest. She is working at present in the Rumanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in an unimportant post. She lives in a modest apartment and shuns publicity. The journalist could not extract from her more than a few sentences about the "difficulty of interpreting Marxism correctly". She also added that the sanctions that had been taken against her were "perfectly justified".
2. The Swiss Communists consider now a definite elimination of Leon Nicole from the party is imminent. Edgar Woog, the Swiss Communist leader, was permitted to write a long article on the situation in Switzerland in the Cominform journal published in Bucharest. This long article was written for the purpose of denouncing Nicole as a traitor. With this official condemnation, the Nicole case seems to be definitely settled, and he has no chance to be taken back into the Swiss Communist Party.
3. Nicole had been a man of confidence of the Beria apparatus in Switzerland. The story of his case is the following: Nicole was expelled by the Malenkov faction while the Beria trial, was prepared, but he kept going encouraged by his friends in Moscow, and counted on Beria winning in the end. Nicole's definite elimination throws some new light on the Slansky affair. Nicole had written numerous articles in which he denounced Edgar Woog and the Swiss Communists as being involved in Slansky's conspiracy, especially with Arthur London one of the defendants. Nicole posed as a specialist in presenting the fairness and the necessity of the Slansky trial in Switzerland.
4. The background of the Slansky affair is very complex, obviously Beria wanted to protect his own apparatus by sacrificing some of his accomplices in the anti-Malenkov plot, and he used that opportunity presented by the Slansky trial to liquidate at the same time a number of his own opponents, highly placed, pro-Malenkov Czech Communist functionaries.

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